(b) The total number of HPCL dealer ships earmarked under Social Objective Scheme in Bihar State since the introduc tion of marketing plans in 1980-81 up to i 986-87 are as under :—

Retail Outlets	—	43
SKO/LDO dealerships	—	3
LPG		11

(c) One such Retail Outlet dealership has been terminated by HPCL in August, 1986 as the dealer had violated the terms and conditions of the dealership agree ment.

Pilferage of LPG from filled cylinders

2545. SHRI SAGAR RAYKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATU-RAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the Pilferage of LPG from filled cylinders. by the transporters and distributors ap-pointed by the I.O.C.;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the concerned Oil Companies against the defaulters; and

(c) what further steps Government pro-pose to take to prevent this pilferage and loss to consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In case a transporter delivers empty or grossly under weight cylinders to the distributor and there is an inference of pilfrage, the cost of the product is debited to him. However, if the pilferage is establish as having been done by the transporter/distributor, action ranging front forefeiture of security deposit to termination of contract/distributorship and blacklisting is taken. Consumers who re-ceive under weight refils are suitably compensated.

Shortage of filed up LPG cylinders

2546. SHRI SAGAR RAYKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATU RAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a' great shortage of filled up LPG cylinders in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to increase the bottling capacity of the existing L.P.G. bottling plants

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) While there is no general shortage of LPG refills in the country, oc-casional backlogs in supply of LPG refils develop at some locations due to factors such as IR problems, operational and transport bottlenecks product availability constraints etc.

(b) Under the LPG Phase III project-additional capacity of 0.7 million MTPA is being added by setting up of new bottling plants and expansion of existing ones.

CompIaint against M/s Kiran Gas Agency,. Khan Market, New Delhi

2547. SHRI K. GOPALAN : '
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that M/s. Kiran Gas Agency, Khan Market, New Delhi is not prompt on delivering gas to its customers; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor-and whether Government propose to keep a watch on this agency and also to take suitable action ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b) While operational' constraints had led to occasional backlogs.

with this distributor in the last three months, the supply of LPG refills currently is normal. A close watch is being kept on the working of this distributorship by IOC.

Pricing Policy for Natural Gas supplied to Maharashtra State Electricity Board

2548. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken about the pricing policy to be adopted for charging price for natural gas being supplied to Maharashtra State Electricity Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that this matter has been pending with the Central Government for a very long period; and whether Maharashtra Government have made several representations for an early decision; and

(c) whether there is any major basic difference between Maharashtra Government and Government of India over this ped icy ?

THE' MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) to (c) The question of fixing the price of natural gas is under the consideration of Government.

Petromax complex at Salimpur

2549. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1985 Government had decided to establish a Petromax complex at Salimpur District Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh);

(b) if so, how many applications foil the joint venture have so far been received by Government;

(c) whether any party has been selected and awarded the contracts; if so, what are the details thereof; • and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government have abandoned the project; if so, what are the reasons thereof stating the policy of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINIS-. TRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Pradeshiya Industrial and Investment Corporation of U.P. Limited (PICUP), a Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, has been issued a letter of intent on 3-3-1986 for the setting up of a petrochemical complex at Saleempur, District Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh. The Project is proposed to be set up in assisted sector. It is for the PICUP to select a partner and implement the project after obtaining usual clearances such as, clearance for import of technology and capital goods, etc.

Allotment of cooking gas agencies to freedom fighters in Uttar Pradesh

2550. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI ; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cooking gas agencies in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of freedom fighters who have been allotted these agencies; and

(c) the number of freedom fighters whose applications have been rejected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b) Out of a total number of 300 LPG distributorships operating in Uttar Pradesh, 9 have been allotted under Freedom Fighters category.